

The Croase House,  
Kingsland,

April 12th, 1926.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—

I beg to lay before you my report for the year ending December 31st, 1925. The district comprises the town of Leominster and a rural district known as the Out-Parish, the whole containing 7,890 acres. There are no industries except such as meet the needs of agriculture. The returns of the Registrar-General gives 70 deaths of inhabitants of the district, 40 males and 30 females, some of these dying in institutions outside the district. In addition to these there were 8 deaths in the Workhouse and 1 in the Cottage Hospital of people from the rural districts which are not included in the numbers given by the Registrar-General. The population, as estimated by the Registrar, is 5,728. This gives an average of 17.4 per thousand per annum. The causes of death are as under.

CIVILIANS ONLY.	M.	F.
All Causes ... ..	40	30
Influenza ... ..	1	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	3	2
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	1	0
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	3	5
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	6	4
Heart disease ... ..	8	8
Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	2	0
Bronchitis ... ..	5	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	0
Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	1	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ... ..	1	1
Suicide ... ..	0	0
Other deaths from violence ... ..	1	0
Other defined diseases ... ..	6	5

There were 3 deaths of infants under 1 year: 1 boy and 2 girls, one girl being illegitimate, or 30.9 per thousand of registered births.

The total births were 97: 58 boys and 39 girls. Of these 4 boys and 7 girls were illegitimate.

The amount of Poor Law Relief was £604 16s. 10d. for the Borough and £85 18s. 5d. for the Out-Parish. The Hospitals in the district are the Leominster Cottage Hospital, the General Hospital and the Eye Hospital in Hereford, all of which are much used by the public.

**Water.**—The Borough has a plentiful and pure supply from their own waterworks. It is pumped to a reservoir from a deep well in the Midsummer Meadows. The Out-Parish is supplied by wells and springs. The rivers Lugg and Pinsley run through the town. Everything possible is done to keep them free from pollution.

The town has a thoroughly efficient system of sewers, only a very few houses being unconnected with them and these few use earth closets. The sewers discharge into a ditch called the town ditch, which runs by the side of the line for a mile or more and then empties into the river Arrow a few hundred yards before it joins the Lugg. I have never seen any sediment after some 200 yards below the juncture of the two streams and as far as I know there is no house below that point which obtains any supply from the river. The town ditch is regularly attended to by cleaning. The Lugg drainage scheme has done much to benefit the district, but nothing can prevent the whole place flooding after heavy rain. Therefore any ordinary sewage scheme is impossible, while the forming of a pumping station with filter beds on the higher ground would be a very severe tax on the ratepayers. Earth closets and privies are in use in the Out-Parish.

**Scavenging.**—All refuse is collected by the town carts each week and in congested districts twice. All bins are movable.

The following is the report of your Surveyor:—

NOTICES SERVED	...	...	...	...	15
NOTICES COMPLIED WITH	...	...	...	...	14
NOTICES OUTSTANDING	...	...	...	...	1
LETTERS WRITTEN	...	...	...	...	62
COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED	...	...	...	...	23
NUISANCES ABATED	...	...	...	...	35
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN	...	...	...	...	0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

Enquiries	...	...	...	...	28
Removals to Hospital	...	...	...	...	nil
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	22
Bedding, Clothing, &c., disinfected	...	...	...	...	7
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	0

HOUSES :—

Inspected	...	...	...	...	40
Condemned as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	0
Made fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	15
Houses demolished (partly or entirely)	...	...	...	...	nil
Houses erected	...	...	...	...	30
Houses cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	nil

WATER SUPPLY :—

Wells sunk	...	...	...	...	2
Wells deepened, repaired, or cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	0
Samples analysed	...	...	...	...	12
Water certificates granted	...	...	...	...	0
Connected to main supply	...	...	...	...	40 premises of various description.

HOUSE DRAINS :—

Laid, relaid, cleansed, trapped	...	...	...	...	45
Spouting, waste pipes, sinks, &c., rectified	...	...	...	...	26

WATER CLOSETS, URINALS, &c. :—

Provided	...	...	...	...	36
Improved and repaired	...	...	...	...	20

SCAVENGING :—

Privies, Receptacles, &c., cleaned	...	...	...	...	5
Ashpits, Cesspits, &c., emptied	...	...	...	...	20 outside of drainage and refuse collecting area.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES INSPECTED, &c. 8

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS INSPECTED, &c. 17

WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES INSPECTED, CLEANSED, &c. 42

UNSOOUND FOOD SEIZED 2

NUISANCES FROM ANIMALS IMPROPERLY KEPT AND ACCUMULATIONS OF MANURE REMOVED 10

MISCELLANEOUS NUISANCES ABATED 28

JAMES BUDD,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

Leominster Urban Sanitary District.

There are no offensive trades and no Lodging-houses.

The Registered Cow Sheds in 1923 were 13, in 1924, 14, and in 1925, 14. Your Inspector reports them to be in good order. The Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Orders are published in the district. The taking of samples is in the hands of the police, and the County Medical Officer of Health regulates the distribution of Mothers' and Children's milk.

There is a public Abattoir in the town which is used regularly and 4 registered private slaughter houses. Your Inspector visits them frequently and reports them to be in good condition. No tubercular carcasses have been found.

		Number														
		1920			1922			1923			1924			1925		
Registered	...	4	...	5	...	5	...	4	...	4	...	4	...	4	...	
Licenced	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	

**Infectious Diseases.**—During the year the following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified :—

Tuberculosis of lungs	...	...	...	...	4
Other forms	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	9
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1

Dr. Lowe, the County Medical Officer of Health, gives every assistance in the way of Bacteriological Examination of Swabs, &c., sent to him, and he is inundated with them by all the doctors in the district. There is a hospital for Small Pox at Ebnal, in the Out-Parish, which can always be ready at an hour's notice. It was passed by a Ministry of Health Inspector in 1922 as quite satisfactory. Other infectious cases are allowed to use the hospital unless there is small pox about. Verminous persons are sent to the Workhouse to be cleansed. The County Tuberculosis Officer holds a dispensary at the Cottage Hospital for Tubercular patients on Fridays, and many patients consult him there. The Oswestry Orthopedic Hospital has a room there also where Mr. Dunn, their Surgeon, sees many patients.

There is a good deal of overcrowding, and always must be, where large families of poor people have to live in small houses, but as more houses are built this must decrease. The bulk of the houses are in a very fair condition. There are no unhealthy areas.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1.—GENERAL.

1. Estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,728
2. General death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.4
3. Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.6
4. Infantile mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30.9
5. Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,530
6. Number of working-class dwelling-houses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	909
7. Number of new working-class houses to be erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I. Inspections.

1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects All Working (under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	Class, 40
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910...	...	...	...	...	14
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	None
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	4

II. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	10
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### III. Action under Statutory Powers.

#### A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	10
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners ... ..	8
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	None
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..	None

#### B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	10
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners ... ..	10
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	3

C. <i>Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1909</i> ... ..	6
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### 3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890	None
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I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT WILLIAMS,  
*Medical Officer of Health*

The Chairman of the Urban Sanitary Authority.  
Leominster.